HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION

To all His loving Subjects upon Occasion OF THE ORDINANCE and DECLARATION of the *Lords* and *Commons*, for the assisting all such who have not contributed sufficiently for raising of *Money*, *Plate*, &c.

Charles R.

OVr expresse pleasure is, That this Our Declaration be Published in all Churches and Chappels within the Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, by the Pastors, Vicars or Curates of the same.

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His Maiesties DECLARATION

To all His loving Subjects upon occasion of the aforesaid Ordinance and DECLARATION.

IT would not be believed (at least great paines heve been taken that it might not) that the pretended Ordinance of the Militia (the first attempt that ever was to make a Law by Ordinance without Our consent) or the keeping Vs out of Hull, and taking Our Armes and Munition from Us, could any way concerne the Interest, property, or Liberty of the Subject, and it was confessed by that desperate Declaration it selfe of the 26. of *May*, that if they were found guilty of that charge of destroying the Title and Interest of Our Subjects to their Lands and goods, it were indeed a very great crime. But it was a strange fatall Lethargy which had seised Our good people, and kept them from descerning, that the Nobility, Gentry, Commonalty of *England*, were not onely stripped of their preheminences and Priviledges, but of their Liberties and estates, when Our just Rights were denied Vs, and that no Subject could from thenceforth expect to dwell at home, when wee were driven from Our Houses and Our Towns. It was not possible, that a Commission could be granted to the Earle of *Essex*, to raise an Army against Us, and for the safety of Our person, and preservation of the peace of the Kingdome, to pursue, kill and slay Vs and all who wish well to Us, but that in a short time inferior Commanders, by the same Authority, would require Our good Subjects for the maintenance of the property of the Subject, to supply them with such summes of money as they thinke fit, upon

of Sir *Edward Baynton's* warrant runnes against Our poore Subjects in *Wiltshire*) and by such rules of unlimited Arbitrary power, as are inconsistent with the least pretence or shadow of that Property it would seem to defend.

If there could be yet any understanding so unskilfull and Supine to believe, That these Disturbers of the publike peace do intend any thing but a generall confusion, they have brought them a sad Argument to their owne doores to convince them; after this Ordinance and Declaration, 'tis not in any sober mans power to believe himselfe worth any thing, or that there is such a thing as Law, Liberty, property left in England, under the jurisdiction of these men, and the same power that robs them now of the Twentieth part of their estates, hath by that but made a claime and entitled it selfe to the other Nineteene, when it shall bee thought fit to hasten the generall ruine. Sure, if the minds of all men be not stubbornly prepared for servitude, they will looke on this Ordinance as the greatest Prodigy of Arbitrary power and tyranny, that any Age hath brought forth in any kingdom, other grievances (and the greatest) have bin conceived intolerable, rather by the Logique and Consequence, then by the Pressure it selfe, this at onee sweeps away all, that the wisdome and justice of Parliaments have provided for them. Is their property in their estates (so carefully looked to by their Ancestors, and so amply established by Vs against any possibility of Invasion from the Crowne) which makes the meanest Subject as much a Lord of his own as the greatest Peere, to be valued or considered? here is a twentieth part of every mans estate (or so much more as foure men will please to call the Twentieth part) taken away at once, and yet a power left to take a twentieth still of that which remaines, and this to bee leavied by such circumstances of severity, as no Act of Parliament ever consented to. Is their liberty which distinguishes Subjects from slaves, and in which this free-borne Nation hath the Advantage of all Christendome, deare to them? they shall not only bee imprison'd in such places of this kingdome, (a latitude of judgement no Court can challenge to it selfe in any Cases) but for so long time as the Committee of the House of Commons for examination shall appoint and order; the House of Commons it selfe having never assumed, or in the least degree pretended to a pow- [illegible] no more Authority to administer an oath (the

only way to discover and find out the truth of facts) to, then to cut off the heads of any of Our Subjects; and this Committee being so far from being a part of the Parliament, that it is destructive to the whole, by usurping to it selfe all the power of King, Lords, and Commons. All who know any thing of Parliaments know that a Committee of either House ought not by the Law to publish their own Resultes, neither are their conclusions of any force without the Confirmation of the House, which has the same power of controling them, as if the matter had never bin debated; but that any Commitee should bee so contracted (as this of Examination, a style no Committee ever bore before this Parliament) as to exclude the Members of the House, who are equally trusted by their Country, from being present at the Counsells, is so monstrous to the priviledges of Parliament, that it is no more in the power of any man to give up that freedome, then of himselfe to order, that from that time the place for which he serves, shall never more send a Knight or Burgesse to the Parliament, and in truth is no lesse then to alter the whole frame of government, to pull up Parliaments by the rootes, and to commit the Lives, Liberties and Estates of all the people of England, to the Arbitrary power of a few unqualified persons, who shall dispose thereof according to their discretion, without account to any rule or Authoritte whatsoever.

Are their friends, their Wives, and Children (the greatest blessings of peace and the comforts of Life) pretious to them? would even their penury and imprisonment be lesse grievous by those cordials? they shall be devorced from them, banished, and shall no longer remaine within the Cities of London and Westminster, the Suburbes and the Counties adjacent, and how farre those adjacent Counties shall extend no man knowes.

Is there any thing now left to enjoy, but the Liberty to Rebell, and destroy one another? are the outward blessing only of peace, property, and liberty, taken, and forced from Our Subjects? are their Consciences free and unassaulted by the violence of these fire-brands? Sure the liberty and freedom of Conscience cannot suffer by these men: Alasse! all these punishments are imposed upon them because they will not submit to Actions contrary to their naturall loyalty, to their Oathes of Allegiance and supremacy, and to their late voluntary protest-

which obliges them to the care of Our person and Our just Rights.

How many persons of Honour, Quality, and Reputation of the severall Counties of England, are now Imprisoned, without any objection against them, but suspition of their loyalty? How many of the gravest and most substantiall Citizens of London, by whom the government and discipline of that City was preserved, are disgraced, robbed, and imprisoned, without any processe of Law, or colour of accusation, but of obedience to the Law and Government of the Kingdome? whil'st Anabaptists and Brownists with the assistance of vitious and deboshed persons, of desperate Fortunes take upon them to breake up and rifle houses, as publike and avowed Ministers of a new invented Authority; How many godly, pious, and painefull Divines, whose lives and learning hath made them of Reverend estimation, are now slander'd with inclination to popery, discountenanced, and imprisoned, for discharging their Consciences in instructing the people in the Christian duty of Religion and Obedience, whilst Schismaticall, Illiterate, and scandalous Preachers, fill the Pulpits and Churches, with Blasphemy, Irreverence, and Treason, and incite their Auditory to nothing but Murther and Rebellion; We passe over the vulgar charm, by wch they have captivated such who have beene contented to dispence with their Consciences for the preservation of their estates, and by which they perswade men cheerefully to part with this twentieth part of their Estate to the good worke in hand, for whoever will give what hee hath may scape robbing; *They shall be repaid upon the publike faith, as all other Monies lent upon the Propositions of both Houses*; It may bee so, but men must bee condemned to a strange unthriftinesse who will lend upon such security.

The publicke Faith indeed is as great an earnest as the State can give. and engages the Honour, Reputation and honesty of the Nation. and i the Act of the Kingdome, 'tis the security of the King, the Lords an Commons, which can never need an Executor, can never dye, never b Bankrupt, and therefore we willingly consented to it for indemnity o our good Subjects of *Scotland*, (who we hope will not think the worl of it, for being so often and so cheaply mentioned since.) But that Vote of one or both Houses should be an engagement upon the publick faith is as impossible as that the Committee of the House of Commor

or Examinations, ſhould be the High Court of Parliament.

And what is or can be ſaid with the leaſt ſhadow of reaſon to juſtifie theſe extravagances? We have not lately heard of the old fundamentall Lawes which uſed to warrant the Innovations, this needs a Refuge even below thoſe foundations: They will ſay they cannot manage their great undertakings without ſuch extraordinary wayes; We think ſo too, but that proves only they have undertaken ſomewhat they ought not to undertake, not that it is lawfull for them to do any thing that is convenient for thoſe ends: We remembred them long ago, and we cannot do it too often, of that excellent Speech of Mr *Pyms*. *The Law is that which puts a difference betwixt good and evill, betwixt juſt and unjuſt, if you take away the Law, all things will fall into a confuſion, every man will become a Law unto himſelf, which in the depraved condition of humane nature, muſt needs produce many great enormities, Luſt will become a Law, and envy will become a Law, Coveteouſneſſe and Ambition will become Lawes, and what Dictates, what Deciſions ſuch Lawes will produce may eaſily be diſcerned.* It may indeed by the ſad inſtances over the whole Kingdome; But will Poſteritie beleeve, that in the ſame Parliament this Doctrine was avowed with that Acclamation, and theſe inſtances after produced; That in the ſame Parliament ſuch care was taken that no man ſhould be committed in what caſe ſoever, without the cauſe of his Impriſonment expreſſed, and that all men ſhould be immediatly bayled in all Caſes bayleable, and during the ſame Parliament that Alderman *Pennington*, or indeed any body elſe, but the ſworn Miniſters of Juſtice, ſhould impriſon whom they would, and for what they would, and for as long time as they would; That the King ſhould be reproached with breach of Priviledge for accuſing Sir *John Hotham* of high treaſon, when with force of Armes he kept him out of *Hull*, and deſpiſed him to his face, becauſe in no caſe a Member of either Houſe might be committed or accuſed without leave of that Houſe, of which he is a Member, and yet that during the ſame Parliament, the ſame Alderman ſhould commit the Earle of *Middleſex* (a Peer of the Realme) and the Lord *Buckhurſt* (a Member of the Houſe of Commons) to the *Counter* without reprehenſion, that to be a Traitour which is defined and every man underſtands) ſhould be no crime, and to be called Malignant (which no body knowes the meaning of) ſhould be ground enough for cloſe impriſonment. That [illegible]

that whosoever should presume to take tunnage and poundage without an Act of Parliament, should incurre the penalty of a Premunire, and the same Parliament, that the same imposition should be laid upon our Subjects, and taken by an order of both Houses, without and against our Consent. Lastly, that the same Parliament, a Law should be made to declare the proceedings and judgement upon Ship-money to be illegall and voyd, and during that Parliament, that an order of both Houses shall, upon pretence of necessity, inable foure men to take away the twentieth part of their Estates from all their Neighbours, according to their discretion.

But our good Subjects will no longer look upon these and the like results, as upon the Counsells and conclusions of both our Houses of Parliament, (though all the world knows even that Authority can never justifie things unwarrantable by the Law) they well know how few of the Persons trusted by them are present at their consultations, of above 500. not 80. and of the House of Peers, not a fifth part, that they who are present enjoy not the Priviledge and Freedome of Parliament, but are besieged by an Army, and awed by the same tumults, which drave us and their fellow Members from thence, to consent to what some few seditions, Schismaticall Persons amongst them do propose; These are the men, who joyning with the *Anabaptists* and *Brownists* of *London*, first changed the Government and Discipline of that City, and now by the pride and power of that City would undo the Kingdome, whilst their Lord Major (a Person accused and known to be guilty of high Treason) by a new Legislative power of his own, suppresses and reviles the Book of Common-prayer, robbes and imprisons whom he thinks fit, and with the rabble of his Faction gives Lawes to both Houses of Parliament, and tells them they will have no Accommodation, whil'st the Members sent and entrusted by their Countryes, are expelled the House, or committed for refusing to take the Oath of Association, to live and dye with the Earle of *Essex*, as very lately Sir *Sidny Mountague*. These are the men who have presumed to send Ambassadors, and to enter into treatyes with forraigne States in their own behalfes, having at this time an Agent of their own with the States of *Holland*, to negotiate for them upon private instructions. These are the men, who not thinking [illegible] have not brought mischiefe enough upon this Kingdome, at this

time invite and ſollicite our Subjects of *Scotland* to enter this Land with an Army againſt us. In a word, theſe are the men who have made this laſt devouring ordinance to take away all Law, Liberty, and property from our people, and have by it really acted that upon our people, which with infinite malice, and no colour or ground, was laboured to be infuſed into them to have been our Intention by the Commiſſion of Array.

We have done; what power and Authority theſe men have, or will have, we know not, for our ſelf we challenge none ſuch; We look upon the preſſures and inconveniences our good Subjects beare, even by us and our Army, (which the Army firſt raiſed by them enforced us to leavy in our defence, and their refuſall of all offers and deſires of Treaty enforceth us to keep) with very much ſadneſſe of heart; We are ſo farre from requiring a twentieth part of their Eſtates (though for their own viſible preſervation) that as we have already ſold or pawned our own Jewells, and coyned our own Plate, ſo we are willing to ſell all our own Land, and Houſes for their reliefe; yet we do not doubt but our good Subjects will ſeriouſly conſider our Condition and their own Duties, and think our readineſſe to protect them with the utmoſt hazard of our life, deſerves their readineſſe to aſſiſt us with ſome part of their fortunes, and whil'ſt other men give a twentieth part of their Eſtates, to enable them to forfeite the other nineteene, that they will extend themſelves to us in a liberall and free proportion for the preſervation of the reſt, and for the maintenance of Gods true Religion, the Lawes of the Land, the Liberty of the Subject, and the ſafety and very being of Parliaments, and this Kingdome: for if all theſe ever were, or can be in manifeſt danger, 'tis now in this preſent Rebellion againſt us.

Laſtly; We will and require all our loving Subjects of what degree or quality ſoever, as they will anſwer it to God, to us, and to poſterity, by their oathes of Allegeance and Supremacy, as they would not be looked upon now, and remembred hereafter, as Betrayers of the Lawes and Liberty they were borne to, that they in no degree ſubmitt to this wilde pretended ordinance, and that they preſume not to give any encouragement or aſſiſtance to the Army now in Rebellion againſt us, which if notwithſtanding they ſhall do, they muſt expect from us the ſeverest punishment the Law can inflict, and a perpetuall Infamy with all go[illegible]